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TURKEY IN ASIA.

Plague in vicinity of Bagdad—Disinfection of merchandise.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 18, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose for your information copy of a dispatch from the vice-consul of the United States at Bagdad, reporting the appearance of plague near Bagdad and requesting instructions concerning the disinfection of merchandise shipped from Bagdad to the United States.

The vice-consul has to-day been furnished with a copy of the Quarantine Regulations and his attention has been called to Article IV thereof.

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,
Secretary of State.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

BAGDAD, April 5, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to bring to the knowledge of the Department, that, according to "Circular note" dated March 29, 1900, from the Direction Sanitaire in this city, there seems to exist a disease near Suleimanieh (north of Bagdad) and on the other side of the Persian frontier.

According to private information received it is the pest, and two villages have already been entirely destroyed.

As the Awas and Karradi wool—which forms a large export to the United States—as well as Persian carpets and skins, are collected from these countries, I request your instructions as to whether I have to fumigate here these goods before they are pressed in bales, in case the plague shall be officially declared.

My predecessor, Dr. Sundberg, was instructed by the Department, during the cholera in 1893, to fumigate all kinds of goods before shipping to America, and I suppose that the same method has to be followed if the pest should make severe progress. However, I am waiting your instructions, which you will kindly send the honorable United States consul-general at Constantinople for transmitting to this consulate by wire (if necessary), in order to spare time and to have your decision quicker.

The fees charged for fumigating by Dr. Sundberg, according to Department's instructions, have been 2½ piasters each bale (10 cents), and I believe that this is to be considered still in force.

Respectfully,

RUDOLF HURNER,
Vice-Consul of the United States.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

AFRICA—*Cape Colony—Kimberley.*—Period of siege from October 16, 1899, to February 16, 1900. Estimated population, 28,718. Total number of deaths, 547, including diphtheria, 4; enteric fever, 55; measles, 64; scarlet fever, 1; whooping cough, 2; diarrhea and dysentery, 290, and 113 from tuberculosis.

AUSTRALIA—*New South Wales—Sydney.*—Month of March, 1900. Estimated population, 438,300. Total number of deaths, 421, including enteric fever, 16; typhus fever, 1; tuberculosis, 39, and 10 from bubonic plague.

Quarter ended March 31, 1900. Estimated population, 438,300. Total number of deaths, 1,448.

BAHAMAS—*Dunmore Town.*—Two weeks ended May 12, 1900. Estimated population, 1,472. Total number of deaths, 1.